

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, CSCE, ECE, GW

SUBJECT: FRG VIEWS ON BREZHNEV BASKET II PROPOSALS

REF: BONN 19720

1. WE FULLY SUPPORT YOUR REPLY TO LAUTENSCHLAGER'S QUERY
AS TO OUR VIEW OF THE BREZHNEV BASKET II PROPOSALS, AS
REPORTED REFTEL.

2. AS INDICATED IN STATE 276093, WE HAVE FOR SOME TIME
BEEN CONCERNED THAT SOME ELEMENTS OF FRG GOVERNMENT WERE
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INTERESTED IN RESPONDING POSITIVELY TO BREZHNEV PROPOSALS,
POSSIBLY BY EVENTUAL ACCEPTANCE OF AT LEAST ONE OF THE
PROPOSED CONFERENCES, OR A MORE MODEST VERSION THEREOF.

3. WE CONCUR WITH LAUTENSCHLAGER'S VIEW THAT SOVIET PRO-
POSALS CONTAIN VERY LITTLE SUBSTANCE AND THAT WESTERN

COUNTRIES APPEAR TO HAVE LITTLE TO GAIN BY ACCEPTING ANY
OF THE SUGGESTED CONFERENCES.

4. WE WILL, OF COURSE, STUDY ANY FURTHER INFORMATION
WHICH THE SOVIETS PROVIDE ON THE SPECIFIC AGENDA AND
OBJECTIVES WHICH THEY FORESEE FOR THE PROPOSED CONFERENCES,
BUT CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT WESTERN GOVERNMENTS SHOULD

KEEP THE SOVIETS IN THE POSITION OF DEMANDEUR.

5. EMBASSY BONN MAY WISH TO MAKE THESE POINTS AS APPROPRIATE IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS OF PROPOSED CONFERENCES WITH FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS.

6. USNATO AND POSTS IN NATO CAPITALS MAY DRAW ON PARAS 3 AND 4 ABOVE, AS APPROPRIATE, IN DISCUSSIONS OF BREZHNEV PROPOSAL FOR BASKET II CONFERENCES.

ROBINSON
UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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